

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 13 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending claims of the same number.

~~A1~~ B1

3. (Once Amended) The thin flange according to claim 14, comprising at least one mounting feature disposed within a perimeter defined by at least a first sealing surface.

~~A2~~

6. (Once Amended) The thin flange according to claim 14, comprising at least one feed-through.

~~A3~~

9. (Once Amended) The vacuum component mounting system according to claim 15, wherein the thin flange contains at least one mounting feature.

~~A4~~

12. (Once Amended) The vacuum component mounting system according to claim 15, wherein the thin flange comprises at least one feed-through.

Please add the following new claims.

~~A5~~

14. (Newly Added) A thin flange for use with a vacuum system, comprising:
a member having a first face having a sealing surface and an opposed, substantially parallel second face having a sealing surface, wherein the first face sealing surface and the

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B1

second face sealing surface comprise a knife edge, and wherein at least one bolt hole extends through the first face and the second face, the at least one bolt hole configured to be aligned with a first standard bolt hole located on a first standard thickness flange and a second standard bolt hole located on a second standard thickness flange so that a bolt may extend through the first standard bolt hole, through the at least one bolt hole, and through the second standard bolt hole.

AB

15. (Newly Added) A vacuum component mounting system, comprising:
a first flange having a first flange sealing surface and at least one first flange bolt hole;

a second flange having a second flange sealing surface and at least one second flange bolt hole; and

a thin flange disposed between the first flange and the second flange, the thin flange comprising at least one thin flange bolt hole capable of being aligned with the at least one first flange bolt hole and the at least one second flange bolt hole so that a bolt may extend through the at least one first flange bolt hole, through the at least one thin flange bolt hole, and through the at least one second flange bolt hole, the thin flange also comprising a first thin flange sealing surface and a second thin flange sealing surface being configured to interact with the first flange sealing surface and the second flange sealing surface respectively, thereby forming a vacuum tight seal.

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